

Mass Removal with Drain Aftercare Information

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Surgery Date: _____

Surgery performed: Mass removal on _____.

Nausea is common following General Anesthesia, in case of nausea:

- **FOOD AND WATER:** Large intakes of food and water following a hospital visit are common due to the excitement of returning home. This type of vomiting can often be eliminated by not allowing access to food or water for 2 hours after returning home.
 - o A bland/special diet may be recommended, the length of time will depend on the type of surgery that has been performed. For orthopedic or neurologic surgery the bland diet may only be needed for a few days, following intestinal surgery, the special diet may be needed for up to a couple of weeks.
 - o Following any nausea or intestinal surgery, food and water is recommended in small amounts every 4-6 hours for a few days, then the volume can be increased and the frequency of meal feedings can be decreased to what is more normal.

A bland diet such as Eukanuba Low Residue, Hill's I/D, or Royal Canine Intestinal diets can be purchased or a home-made diet can be made with a 50:50 mixture of a cooked protein source such as hamburger, turkey, chicken, or cottage cheese (all fat removed) combined with a carbohydrate source such as rice, pasta, or mashed potato. We recommend gradually mixing the regular diet into this bland diet during the first week home.

Medications:

- (+/-) **Fentanyl patch** (sizes available include 12, 25, 50, 75, & 100 ug patches): This is a clear plastic patch applied to your pet's skin for relief of discomfort or pain control. You will be instructed on when to remove the patch from your pet's skin (usually the date it should be removed will be noted). In most pets, the effects of this patch will work for about 3-5 days total (average of 4 days). It can be disposed of in two ways only, either place the patch in a plastic bag and return it to the office that dispensed it to you for disposal, or fold it in half, and flush it down the toilet. Do not allow pets or people to lick, eat or chew the patch because this may result in intoxication. The effects of the patch take 12-24 hours to either start to work or for the effects of the patch to wear off. Other medications can be used with the patch in place if needed and instructions on adjusting doses should be provided for you.
- (X) Pain relieving medications: **Tramadol 50 mg**: The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) or partial tablet needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 8, or 12 hours) for 10-14 days as needed for pain control. This medication is an opioid and may cause sedation, mild constipation, or a decreased appetite. These side effects are related to the dose of the medication. Please call your doctor if you have concerns about any side effects. If a Fentanyl patch has been applied to your pet, this medication may not be needed until the patch has been removed, however it can be started with the Fentanyl patch at half the recommended dose (unless already at ¼ tablet dose) if needed. Please call if you have additional questions or concerns.
 - () The first doses are due about 8-12 hours after removal of the Fentanyl patch
 - OR () The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

(+/-) **Antacids** such as Pepcid AC (Famotidine) or Zantac (Ranitidine) may be recommended: The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for 5-7 days. This is an acid reducing medication which can be purchased over-the-counter in any pharmacy, drug store, or grocery store. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

(+/-) **Other: Antibiotics** may be administered if needed, depending on the case. The dose will be given in terms of the number of tablet(s)/capsule(s) needed to be administered by mouth and the frequency will be noted for you (either every 12 or 24 hours) for the appropriate number of days. Antibiotics would be used to prevent infection or treat contamination noted at the time of surgery. Any antibiotic may cause nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most side effects can be minimized by administering the medication with food. The time of the next dose that this medication is due will be noted on your discharge instructions (_____ am/pm).

() Other:

For Cats: () Please do not let your pet outside during recovery.

() LITTER PAN – Use shredded paper or Yesterdays News for litter for 14 days.

Exercise: Limit activity for the next 3 weeks. Your pet should be kept in a crate, playpen, or confined to a small space at all times unless under direct supervision for the first 3 weeks. No jumping, running, or rough-housing with other pets or people. Unrestricted activity may result in more pain, break down of the abdominal incision, or other complications.

(+/-) Short walks are permitted on a leash only (10 minutes maximum). Do not leave your pet off the leash or unattended outside during the time of exercise restriction.

Incision: The incision will initially be covered by a bandage. Once this has been removed, please check the incision daily for redness, swelling, pain or discharge. Please call if you notice opening of the incision, drainage from the incision, or swelling. Do not allow your pet to lick the incision. If this occurs please obtain an Elizabethan collar from us, your regular veterinarian, or a pet supply store. Another option is to place bitter apple solution around the incision or place a t-shirt on your pet depending on the location of the incision and their tolerance of these pieces of clothing.

(X) There are sutures that need to be removed in about 10-14 days.

(X) **BANDAGES:** Areas surrounding bandages should be checked at home twice daily for areas of irritation, swelling, odor, or wetness/dampness and reported if found. Bandages and splints should be kept dry by being wrapped in plastic (such as a plastic bag or Glad “press and seal” wrap over the bottom of the bandage with a secondary bag, or the bootie we have sent home) when your pet is outside. Keep uncovered at all other times. Please call if the bandage slips, gets wet, or if you have questions or concerns.

(X) Bandage check/change in 3-7 days - see below for drain instructions

(X) Bandage removal in 7-14 days.

() Bandage changes will be needed every _____ days for about _____ weeks total.

(X) **Drain instructions:** A special type of drain has been placed (called a Jackson Pratt drain) that allows monitoring of the volume of fluid. Your pet needs to wear the e-collar to prevent chewing of the drain. These drains are meant for deep areas and are less likely to become infected as they are closed in the incision at the time of surgery and protected. The drain will be covered by a bandage to help with management. The bulb on the drain should be checked 3-4 times a day or as needed based on the amount of fluid in the bulb. The amount of fluid in the bulb should be recorded (see handout). A bowel, towel, or trash can may be used to collect the fluid. There is a removable stopper on the "grenade" (collection bulb) and as it fills up it has less suction. The stopper should be popped off (not the portion attached to the tubing) and the fluid removed. Once the bulb is empty the grenade is compressed and the stopper is replaced. This returns suction to the tubing. The grenade can be secured to your pet in a couple of areas. If you have trouble emptying the bulb while it is attached to your pet, you can detach it and secure it to either the bandage with tape or a safety pin (careful that it is not near the skin and is always closed or that it does not pop open when your pet lays down), or secured to a t-shirt placed on your pet and knotted at the bottom.

(X) The drain bulb should be emptied every 6-8 hours or as needed. As the fluid volume decreases, you can extend the time between draining, but it should be checked at least 2 times a day to be sure that the suction is still good.

(X) The drain will be removed when:

(X) the volume of fluid over a 24 hour period where the drain can be removed will be determined (mL).

(X) the drain has been in for at least 3-5 days of time.

(X) SAMPLES: A biopsy +/- culture were submitted to the lab. These results should return in 5-7 days. Dr. Hodge will call with the results when they arrive. Additionally, copies will be sent to your regular veterinarian. Please call if you have not heard from Dr. Hodge in 7 days.

PLEASE RETURN your pet for: (X) A drain check (removal) in 3-5 or 5-7 days.
(X) An incision check for suture removal in 10-14 days.